

Application No. 10/766,258
Amendment dated March 17, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of January 17, 2006

Docket No. 1232-5266

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 and 15-25 are pending in this application. Claims 8 and 9 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 15-25 are allowed. Applicant notes that the Final Office Action indicates that claims 15-24 are allowed. Applicant further note that claim 25 is missing in the allowed claim list. Applicant assumes that claim 25, which were added in the previous amendment along with other allowed claims 15-24, is also allowed. Claims 1-7 and 10-13 are rejected.

By this amendment, rejected claims 1-7 and 10-13 along with withdrawn claims 8 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Response to Arguments

In paragraph one (1) of the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Miwa's diaphragm mechanism "wrings" a number of "gobos" to obtain various size openings, and cites paragraphs [0005]-[0007]. The Examiner further states:

Claims 5 and 13 of Miwa imply that the wringing action of the diaphragm can completely restrict the amount of light reaching the wafer 24. Additionally, Miwa mentions a shutter that can be open and closed after positioning a wafer 24 on a reticle 22, which can further shield, or prevent light from reaching, the wafer 24. (Page 2 of the Final Office Action)

Absent any specific rejections, Applicant assumes the the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) are repeated for the rejected claims (i.e., claims 1-7 and 10-13).

As indicated above, rejected claims 1-7 and 10-13 have been cancelled rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

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Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph two (2) of the Final Office Action, claims 15-24 have been indicated as allowable. Applicant assumes that claim 25, which were added in the previous amendment along with other allowed claims 15-24, is also allowed.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the application including only allowed claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

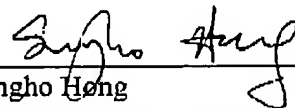
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5266). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: March 17, 2006

By: _____


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